

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. IX, No. 7

March 22, 1930

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

California Cities Make Low Infant Mortality Records

For many years Pacific coast cities have maintained consistently the lowest infant mortality rates of any cities in the United States, and the 1929 records of the State Department of Public Health indicate that this enviable position remains unchanged. The infant mortality rate for the state as a whole, however, rose slightly in 1929; the 1928 rate was 62.4 and the 1929 rate was 63.1. This rise is due, largely, to the reduced total number of births that occurred last year. Since the infant mortality rate is based upon the ratio of infant deaths to total live births, it is obvious that a reduction in number of registered births may constitute a vital factor in raising the infant mortality rate.

There is significance in the fact that 35 California cities last year achieved infant mortality rates lower than the rate for the state as a whole. Among these cities are the larger centers of population, such as San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Los Angeles, Pasadena, San Diego, Fresno and Stockton.

The following are those cities which have infant mortality rates lower than the state rate in 1929:

South Pasadena	16.0
San Mateo	28.3
Alameda	29.0
Whittier	29.5
San Rafael	31.3
Alhambra	34.2
Berkeley	35.0
Richmond	36.2
Glendale	37.0
Petaluma	37.0
San Jose	37.1
Long Beach	39.3
Santa Rosa	41.0
Vallejo	44.1
Eureka	45.2

Oakland	46.7
Pasadena	47.1
Pomona	42.3
San Diego	49.1
Santa Monica	49.8
San Francisco	49.8
Modesto	50.0
Monrovia	50.7
Santa Ana	50.9
Visalia	53.2
Stockton	53.9
Chico	54.5
Palo Alto	57.4
Fresno	58.0
Napa	58.3
Los Angeles	58.6
Marysville	59.2
Redlands	59.6
Bakersfield	60.2
San Luis Obispo	62.9

The low infant mortality rates for 1929 were shared, also, by a number of the unincorporated districts in eighteen counties of the state. Following is a list of such counties, together with their infant mortality rates for 1929.

Glenn	28.0
Sacramento (except Sacramento)	31.1
El Dorado	32.3
Marin (except San Rafael)	37.3
Plumas	39.0
Santa Cruz (ex. Santa Cruz and Watsonville)	43.5
Siskiyou	45.8
Colusa	46.2
Sierra	46.5
Inyo	47.1
San Mateo (except San Mateo)	49.7
Placer	50.1
Stanislaus (except Modesto)	56.0
Nevada	57.7
Solano (except Vallejo)	58.0
Los Angeles (rural only)	58.6
Monterey (except Monterey)	60.9
Butte (except Chico)	62.4

There were 5139 infant deaths in California last year, as compared with 5220 such deaths in 1928. Of the 5139 infant deaths occurring in 1929, 2901 were in white, 1886 in Mexican, 141 in Japanese, 78 in Negro, 54 in Chinese and 44 in Indian babies. Among these races, the highest infant mortality rate, 140.1, was for Indian babies, and next to the highest rate, 135.1, was for Mexican babies. The Negro infant mortality rate was 74.4. The Chinese infant mortality rate was 69.7 and the Japanese infant mortality rate was 59.9. The infant mortality rate for white babies, exclusive of all other races within the state, was only 46.3. The following table provides information upon infant mortality in 1929 for the various races within the state:

	Total	Per cent	Rate
Total births	5139	100	63.1
White	2901	56.4	46.3
Negro	78	1.5	74.4
Indian	44	.9	140.1
Chinese	54	1.1	69.7
Japanese	141	2.7	59.9
Mexican	1886	36.7	135.1
Other	35	.7	108.4

Diseases of early infancy caused the deaths of 2084 infants, pneumonia claimed 861 infant lives and diarrhea and enteritis caused the deaths of 702 babies last year. Congenital malformations caused 432 infant deaths, and whooping cough and influenza took 191 and 112 infant lives, respectively. External causes caused the deaths of 98 infants.

There are many factors that enter into the determination of infant mortality rates. As a meter of public health progress, contributed to from various channels, the infant mortality rate serves as a reliable index of general public health conditions. Family customs and characteristics peculiar to different races undoubtedly play important parts in the production of high infant mortality rates. Lack of knowledge concerning the best methods of infant care also constitutes a prime factor in the production of a high rate. The intestinal disturbances which cause large numbers of infant deaths are, in a measure, due to improper feeding and to improper care of milk. While congenital conditions which can not be changed are responsible for a large proportion of infant deaths, it is believed that fully half of the infant deaths that occur are preventable.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1929

County (exclusive of) City	Number of infant deaths	Infant mortality rate
CALIFORNIA	5139	63.1
Alameda	38	68.8
Oakland	196	46.7
Alameda	15	29.0
Berkeley	28	35.0
San Leandro	7	107.0

County (exclusive of) City	Number of infant deaths	Infant mortality rate
Alpine	---	---
Amador	6	76.0
Butte	22	62.4
Chico	11	54.5
Calaveras	5	89.3
Colusa	6	46.2
Contra Costa	51	69.8
Richmond	12	36.2
Del Norte	---	---
El Dorado	3	32.3
Fresno	145	93.0
Fresno	52	58.0
Glenn	4	28.0
Humboldt	19	71.0
Eureka	16	45.2
Imperial	92	138.2
Brawley	46	138.2
Calexico	19	106.8
El Centro	31	131.0
Inyo	4	47.1
Kern	98	106.9
Bakersfield	37	60.2
Kings	34	129.3
Hanford	21	99.6
Lake	8	127.0
Lassen	19	68.4
Los Angeles	497	38.6
Los Angeles	1096	63.9
Alhambra	8	34.2
Long Beach	81	39.3
Pasadena	47	47.1
Pomona	14	42.3
Santa Monica	34	49.8
Glendale	34	37.0
Monrovia	7	50.7
Redondo Beach	8	112.7
Whittier	10	29.5
South Pasadena	1	16.0
Madera	30	91.5
Marin	6	37.3
San Rafael	4	31.3
Mariposa	2	100.0
Mendocino	31	117.5
Merced	48	69.8
Modoc	7	68.7
Mono	---	---
Monterey	36	60.9
Monterey	12	63.6
Napa	13	38.5
Napa	6	58.3
Nevada	6	57.7
Orange	95	82.8
Santa Ana	29	30.9
Anaheim	12	72.3
Placer	18	50.1
Plumas	3	39.0
Riverside	94	123.8
Riverside	41	64.9
Sacramento	10	31.1
Sacramento	128	63.7
San Benito	17	90.4
San Bernardino	108	94.2
Redlands	14	59.6
San Bernardino	69	82.9
Ontario	11	73.3
San Diego	49	67.0
San Diego	122	49.1
San Francisco	378	49.8
San Joaquin	63	83.0
Stockton	41	53.9
San Luis Obispo	17	75.2
San Luis Obispo	12	62.9
San Mateo	16	49.7
San Mateo	11	28.3
Santa Barbara	55	103.2
Santa Barbara	39	64.0

County (exclusive of) City	Number of infant deaths	Infant mortality rate
Santa Clara -----	78	76.4
San Jose -----	28	37.1
Palo Alto -----	12	57.4
Santa Clara -----	4	93.0
Santa Cruz -----	4	43.5
Santa Cruz -----	16	74.1
Watsonville -----	20	104.0
Shasta -----	16	101.9
Sierra -----	2	46.5
Siskiyou -----	19	45.8
Solano -----	10	58.0
Vallejo -----	10	44.1
Sonoma -----	23	65.9
Petaluma -----	6	37.0
Santa Rosa -----	8	41.0
Stanislaus -----	28	56.0
Modesto -----	23	50.0
Sutter -----	12	136.6
Tehama -----	20	88.5
Trinity -----	1	62.5
Tulare -----	96	76.5
Visalia -----	10	53.2
Tuolumne -----	11	68.8
Ventura -----	114	96.0
Yolo -----	20	74.9
Yuba -----	3	79.0
Marysville -----	10	59.2

PUBLIC HEALTH IN CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK

Of particular interest to workers and persons interested in the field of public health is the program planned by the Health Section of the California Conference of Social Work, to be held at Santa Barbara this year, from May 13th to 17th. The program as outlined by the section chairman, Dr. John L. Pomeroy, Los Angeles County health officer, includes discussion meetings on mental hygiene and endocrinology, practical eugenics from the medical point of view, cost of medical care from the standpoint of the private practitioner, the hospital social worker, the nursing profession, and the public health official. Miss Anna E. McCaughey, chairman of the Family and Child Welfare Section, has arranged a program developing the part played by the law in promoting or hindering family and child welfare.

The program of the Racial and Citizenship Section, dealing as it does with the social problems of the Filipinos, the Mexicans and the Indians, is particularly timely, while the discussion topics planned by the sections on Recreation, Organization and Administration, Industry, Education and Delinquency bring before the conference the most important problems confronting workers in these various fields. The conference theme, "Social Progress and the Law," is the keynote of the entire program, and serves as a basis for program building and discussion.

Speakers of state-wide and national reputation, each a leader in his own field, have been invited to speak before the sections and lead the discussions.

Many kindred groups are taking advantage of the invitation extended by the California Conference of Social Work to hold their meetings in conjunction with the conference, and arrangements for breakfast, luncheon and dinner meetings and afternoon sessions of these groups are rapidly nearing completion.

The current issue of the conference quarterly bulletin devotes itself in part to the outlining of section programs, kindred group meetings, railroad and hotel rates, and other pertinent details which will be of interest to the medical, social and health workers who are planning to attend the twenty-second annual meeting of the California Conference at Santa Barbara, May 13th to 17th.

A modern railroad will not entrust its train to an engineer with thickened arteries, high blood-pressure, or heart or kidney disease, because experience has shown that these men can not be depended upon for prompt and accurate decisions in emergencies. Many beneficent political, social, and industrial enterprises have been wrecked from the same causes. The time must come when it will be considered as important for the president of a railroad to have normal blood supply to heart and brain as in the case even of the engineer of the crack passenger express.—*Dr. H. W. Cook.*

He who attempts to make others believe in means which he himself despises, is a puffer; he who makes use of more means than he knows to be necessary, is a quack; and he who ascribes to those means a greater efficacy than his own experience warrants, is an impostor.—*Lavater.*

* MORBIDITY

Diphtheria.

71 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Hayward 2, Oakland 5, Callexico 1, El Centro 1, Bakersfield 1, Lake County 6, Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 19, Pasadena 1, Madera County 1, Marin County 2, Mendocino County 2, Salinas 1, Calistoga 1, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 4, Riverside County 1, Needles 1, Redlands 1, San Diego County 1, San Francisco 6, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 1, Sonoma County 2, Tulare County 1, Tulare 1.

Scarlet Fever.

214 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 3, Oakland 6, Placerville 1, Fresno County 3, Fresno 1, Selma 3, Eureka 6, Kern County 5, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 7, El Segundo 1, Glendale 13, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 39, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 4, Hawthorne 1, Monterey Park 1, Maywood 5, Bell 3, Fort Bragg 1, Merced 1, Monterey County 1, Salinas 4, Grass Valley 1, Orange County 2, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 2, Riverside County 1, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 7, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 3, San Diego 3, San Francisco 37, San Joaquin County 2, Lodi 1, Stockton 5, Tracy 1, Arroyo Grande 1, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo County 1, Daly City 1, San Mateo 1, Santa Clara County 4, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 1, Watsonville 1.

* From reports received on March 17th and 18th for week ending March 15th.

Shasta County 2, Vallejo 1, Petaluma 2, Tehama County 1, Porterville 2, Ventura County 1.

Measles.

1805 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Alameda 47, Berkeley 11, Emeryville 2, Oakland 234, Piedmont 7, San Leandro 1, Butte County 1, Contra Costa County 3, Antioch 26, El Cerrito 1, Hercules 2, Martinez 2, Pinole 13, Richmond 2, Fresno County 7, Fresno 16, Calexico 2, Kern County 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 153, Compton 6, Culver City 1, Huntington Park 7, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 46, Los Angeles 238, Monrovia 1, Montebello 9, Pasadena 10, Pomona 2, Redondo 1, San Fernando 4, San Gabriel 7, Santa Monica 1, Hawthorne 2, South Gate 15, Monterey Park 5, Signal Hill 2, Maywood 7, Marin County 1, Corte Madera 1, Larkspur 2, Ukiah 6, Merced County 1, Los Banos 2, Merced 16, Monterey County 1, Salinas 1, Anaheim 9, Santa Ana 2, Roseville 4, Riverside County 5, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 9, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 8, San Diego 6, San Francisco 530, San Joaquin County 29, Lodi 100, Manteca 1, Stockton 13, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 1, Daly City 4, San Bruno 1, Santa Clara County 28, Los Gatos 2, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 59, Sunnyvale 6, Solano County 1, Benicia 3, Vallejo 26, Sonoma County 4, Petaluma 3, Tulare County 2, Ventura County 1, Yolo County 8, Winters 1, Woodland 1.

Smallpox.

92 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Butte County 2, Pittsburg 1, El Centro 6, Kern County 1, Kings County 1, Lake County 1, Lakeport 1, Glendora 1, Inglewood 5, Los Angeles 4, Montebello 6, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 3, South Gate 4, Maywood 5, Madera County 1, Merced County 12, Santa Ana 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 3, Redlands 8, San Bernardino 3, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Clara County 1, San

Jose 1, Stanislaus County 4, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 1, Yuba County 8.

Typhoid Fever.

8 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Calexico 1, El Centro 1, Los Angeles County 1, San Francisco 3, San Luis Obispo County 1, Vallejo 1.

Whooping Cough.

156 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Emeryville 5, Oakland 14, Fresno County 1, Fresno 7, Glenn County 1, Bakersfield 2, Kings County 3, Los Angeles County 11, Arcadia 1, Huntington Park 4, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 18, Los Angeles 17, Whittier 1, South Gate 3, Ross 5, Orange County 2, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 1, Orange 4, Santa Ana 2, Tustin 3, Sacramento 4, San Diego County 7, Coronado 3, El Cajon 2, San Diego 18, San Francisco 3, San Joaquin County 3, Santa Clara County 1, Exeter 1, Ventura County 6.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

7 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Oakland 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, Stockton 1, Red Bluff 1.

Poliomyelitis.

3 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Alhambra 1, Glendale 1, Ontario 1.

Rabies (Human).

Riverside County reported one case of human rabies.

Undulant Fever.

2 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Whittier 1.

NOTE.—Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1930				1929			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending Mar. 15 received by Mar. 18	Week ending			Reports for week ending Mar. 16 received by Mar. 19
	Feb. 22	Mar. 1	Mar. 8		Feb. 23	Mar. 2	Mar. 2	
Actinomycosis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Botulism	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0
Chickenpox	607	676	608	586	516	663	710	701
Coccidioidal Granuloma	0	2	2	0	1	3	0	0
Diphtheria	71	67	58	71	79	61	43	58
Dysentery (Amoebic)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Dysentery (Bacillary)	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	1	1	1	0	4	5	2	4
Erysipelas	15	21	14	17	14	31	18	23
Food Poisoning	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0
German Measles	65	45	39	38	26	70	33	36
Gonococcus Infection	96	120	135	153	100	120	126	122
Hookworm	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	35	46	57	35	142	191	161	111
Jaundice (Epidemic)	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Leprosy	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0
Malaria	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Measles	1,180	1,576	1,601	1,805	54	46	70	59
Meningitis (Epidemic)	10	14	6	7	16	36	22	20
Mumps	821	818	799	753	297	445	547	504
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Pellagra	1	0	1	1	1	4	1	0
Pneumonia (Lobar)	75	83	58	66	97	159	114	99
Poliomyelitis	0	2	3	3	2	2	0	3
Rabies (Human)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Rabies (Animal)	13	13	22	12	18	33	29	17
Scarlet Fever	277	283	228	214	415	570	534	507
Smallpox	107	109	67	92	81	106	77	60
Syphilis	145	175	197	245	158	126	221	151
Tetanus	2	4	1	4	3	2	0	0
Trachoma	1	2	2	0	3	3	1	2
Trichinosis	6	4	0	0	0	0	1	0
Tuberculosis	218	145	272	185	216	218	278	240
Typhoid Fever	7	5	10	8	6	16	15	6
Undulant Fever	3	1	1	2	0	1	1	3
Whooping Cough	115	183	179	156	175	233	210	259
Totals	3,875	4,397	4,381	4,455	2,429	3,150	3,221	2,987



Measles continues on its skyward course.



Mumps is still running at a high level.



Epidemic meningitis is apparently declining.



Smallpox is distributed widely over the state.

